Claims

[c1]   We claim:

1.An on-demand electronic document processing and sharing network comprising:

(a)a server computer,

(b)a host computer,

(c)a server software application installed on said server computer,

(d)a host software application installed on said client computer,

(e)shared electronic documents stored on the host computer,

(f)said server software application comprises

a.a method of communication with host software application on the host computer via a network protocol,

b.a database of links to electronic documents stored on the host computer,

c.an updating means to update said database with links to the electronic documents received from the host computer via said method of communication,

d.a viewer interface providing means to find the links stored in said database and request the electronic documents from the host computer,

e.the viewer interface provides means to directly or indirectly choose viewing preferences, which are submitted along with the request for the electronic documents sent to the host computer,

(g)a host software application installed on said host computers, which comprises

a.a method of communication with server software application on the server computer via a network protocol,

b.a monitoring means to monitor and register changes to the electronic documents stored on the host computer

c.a notification means to notify the server computer software application about such changes to electronic documents via said method of communication,

d.a manipulation means to manipulate electronic documents by transformation of size, dimensions or content, using applicable existing document transformation algorithms, according to the viewing preferences received from the server software application via said method of communication,

e.a delivery interface providing means to deliver the original or transformed electronic documents directly to viewer via a transport protocol,

wherein a viewer connects to the server computer to find the links to the electronic documents, specify the viewing preferences, according to which the electronic documents is automatically processed on the client computer

and delivered through said communications method directly from the host computer to said viewer.

[c2]   2. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein there is a plurality of client computers.

[c3]   3. A system as recited in claims 2 wherein a single computer serves are both said client computer and said host computer with both the server software program and the client software program and can function as a client computer and process electronic documents.

[c4]   4. A system as recited in claim 3 wherein there is a plurality of single computers, thus achieving scalability and better performance.

[c5]   5. A system as recited in claims 1, 2, 3, 4 wherein the electronic document is a digital image.

[c6]   6. A system as recited in claims 1, 2, 3, 4 wherein the electronic document is a digital video file.

[c7]   7. A system as recited in claims 1, 2, 3, 4 wherein the electronic document is a text document.

[c8]   8. A system as recited in claims 1, 2, 3, 4 wherein the electronic document is a digital audio file.

[c9]   9. A system as recited in claims 1, 2, 3, 4 wherein the

electronic document is a file of any special format, for which applicable transformation rules are defined and implemented on the client computer,

10. A system as recited in claims 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 wherein the database of links on the server computer contains small preview images which are stored on the server computer and can be displayed via said user interface to the requesting viewer.

[c10] 11. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein said communication protocol is SOAP and the method of communication is a Web Service.

[c11] 12. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein said transport protocol is HTTP and the method of communications is HTTP download.

[c12] 13. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein said transport protocol is FTP and the method of communications is FTP download.

[c13] 14. A system as recited in claim 13 wherein said FTP protocol provides client computer"s directory browsing capability directly to said viewer.

[c14] 15. A system as recited in claims 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, wherein viewing preferences are determined automatically based on the client computer"s screen resolution

and connection speed.

[c15] 16. A system as recited in claims 1, 3, wherein there is a local cache of processed images on any number of host computers, which is used to serve multiple copies of the same processed document to more than one spectator.